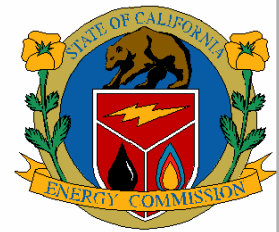


# California Energy Commission

## PERMITTING ASSISTANCE DURING THE 2000-2001 ENERGY EMERGENCY

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Energy Facilities Siting Division

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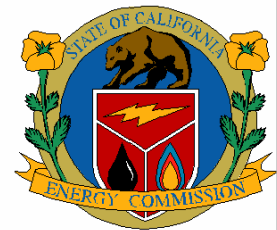
## 2000-2001 Energy Emergency

- Power plant outages and electricity and natural gas prices increased dramatically in 2000-2001
- Generators refused to sell electricity to the California Power Exchange and the California Independent System Operator because of the lack of a credit-worthy buyer
- The Energy Commission forecasted a 5,000 MW supply shortage if Summer 2001 temps were extreme.
- Governor declared Energy Emergency and issued Executive Orders to address the emergency
- Governor signed AB970 that contained measures to reduce demand and increase energy efficiency, conservation and generation



# AGENCY EFFORTS

- Governor created an Emergency Energy Team of Agency Secretaries and Department Directors to implement and monitor emergency actions.
- Governor appointed a Clean Energy Green Team to oversee the local permitting and construction process for small renewable and peaking power plants.
- Green Team coordinated with the 14 Cal EPA Regional Permit Assistance Centers to provide developers of emergency power plants with permitting and construction assistance.
- Energy Commission developed emergency 21-day and 4-month peaker permitting processes and expedited amendment process.
- Energy Commission developed and coordinated an interagency project-tracking system.

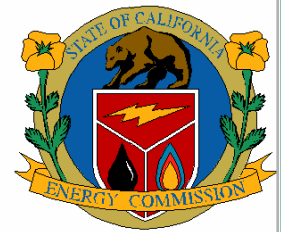


# **GREEN TEAM**

## **What worked well?**

**Green Team focused on facilitating the completion of projects below Energy Commission permitting authority (50 MW thermal) that had existing summer reliability contracts with the Independent System Operator.**

**Green Team/Permit Assistance Centers offered valuable assistance in helping projects resolve permitting issues and barriers with local agencies.**

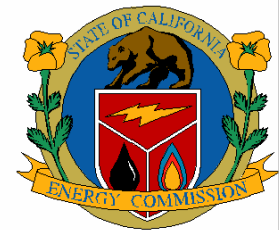


# GREEN TEAM

## What could have helped?

Establishing a separate process or group of people within the “contracting agency” designated to focus only on small renewable generating facilities and provide direct feedback and negotiations from the beginning of the process could have helped those projects.

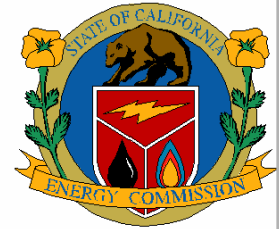
Using a separate group of people focused on small projects, to assist the project developer in dealing with transmission issues and associated costs and setting up methods to cost share with other projects using the same transmission facilities and amortize interconnection costs might have resulted in a greater number of successful renewable projects.



# ENERGY COMMISSION

## What worked well?

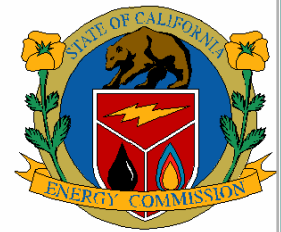
- Siting Office served as clearinghouse for project developer inquiries.
- Information workshops for project developers
- Web site bulletin board for project developers
- Energy Commission web site had developer and local agency assistance guides online.
  - Energy Aware Planning Guide: Energy Facilities  
(An in-depth report for local agencies covering all facets of power plant siting and licensing)
  - Energy Facility Licensing Process: Developers Guide of Practices and Procedures



# ENERGY COMMISSION

## What could have helped?

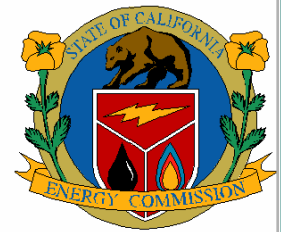
- Toll free hotline call center



# PROJECT TRACKING

## What worked well?

- Project tracking provided regular status reports on projects in permitting and construction.
- Tracking group included staff from resource and infrastructure agencies.
- Roadblocks to projects were identified early, and agencies were contacted to resolve issues.
- Interagency cooperation greatly improved and remains high today.

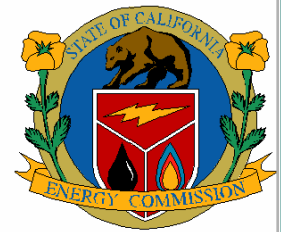




# PROJECT TRACKING

## What could have helped?

- Conference calls could have been improved by using WebEx file sharing features.
- Tracking could have been more efficient using e-mail rather than phone calls to track status of projects.
- A tracking software application would have been an improvement over Excel spreadsheets that were submitted by trackers for report preparation.



## More Information

### ■ California Energy Commission

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